

Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PER-01 SP-02 MMO-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NSC-05 DODE-00 PM-04 /076 W

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R 120501Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0034

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN QA US

SUBJ: US MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY APPLIED TO ARAB BLOC

REF: STATE 303856, ABU DHABI 0021, MANAMA 0014

1. SUMMARY: BECAUSE OF ITS VULNERABILITY TO ARAB BLOC AND OTHER PRESSURES, QATARIS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO SNAP TO WHEN US BARKS IN MULTILATERAL FORA. THERE IS SOME HOPE OF IMPROVING QATAR PERFORMANCE IF WE PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD AT EARLIER STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POSITIONS. THREATS OF CURTAILMENT OF RELATIONS TO ENFORCE CONFORMITY ARE NOT CREDIBLE, AND STAND TO LOSE US MORE THAN WE WOULD GAIN. END SUMMARY.

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2. FROM PERSPECTIVE OF QATAR TOO, AMBASSADOR STERNER'S OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON US MULTILATERAL

DIPLOMACY APPLIED TO ARAB BLOC ARE GENERALLY RELEVANT.

3. ON MOST MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS, GOQ NOT ONLY SHELTERS UNDER UMBRELLA OF ARAB BLOC BUT, DESPITE ITS CONSERVATISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM, COWERS WITHIN IT IN FEAR OF ALGERIANS AND OTHER ARAB RADICALS. SAUDI INERTIA AND DEATH OF FATHER FIGURE FAISAL SUBSTANTIALLY DIMINISH SAUDI INFLUENCE ON QATARIS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. GOQ IS PERHAPS MORE INFLUENCED BY CONSISTENT EGYPTIAN ADHERENCE TO ANTI-U.S. POSITIONS, IN PART BECAUSE MOST OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SENIOR SUBSTANTIVE ADVISORS ARE SECONDED EGYPTIAN DRPLOMATS.

4. GOQ'S DISPOSITION TO LINE UP AGAINST US ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, OR AT BEST TO TAKE A NEGATIVE ABSTENTION STANCE, IS FURTHER CONDITIONED BY ITS STATUS AS NONALIGNED, THIRD WORLD, AND OPEC NATION. IN ALL THESE CONTEXTS, AT LEAST AT PRESENT, CONFRONTATIVE ASPECTS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH US OUTWEIGH COOPERATIVE ONES. ALTHOUGH GOQ DOES NOT AS YET HAVE CAPACITY TO THINK THROUGH CLEARLY MOST INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, ITS USUALLY FUZZY-HEADED CONCLUSIONS, INFLUENCED BY FACTORS AFOREMENTIONED, OFTEN PUT IT ON WRONG SIDE OF ARGUMENT AS FAR AS USG IS CONCERNED.

5. THERE IS A POSITIVE ELEMENT, SUGGESTED BY QATARIS' THEMSELVES, THAT MAY HOLD SOME PROMISE OF BETTER GOQ COOPERATION WITH US IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. AFTER QATARIS' BACKSLIDING PERFORMANCE FROM POSITIVE TO ABSTENTION POSITION ON FRIENDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION AT 30TH UNGA, GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME THAT FULLER CONSULTATION WITH QATARI REPS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK EARLY IN GAME AS U.S. POSITIONS BEING DEVELOPED WOULD HELP IMPROVE SUPPORT OF U.S. VIEWS. HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS OUR "LAST MINUTE FIREMAN" EFFORTS IN CAPITAL TO SECURE GOQ SUPPORT. CLOSER CONSULTATIONS AT EARLIER STAGES IS WORTH PURSUING, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE IT WILL MAKE IN GOQ'S PERFORMANCE.

6. FINALLY, I TOO WOULD CAUTION AGAINST LOOSE USE OF THREATS IN EFFORT TO COMPEL CONFORMITY TO U.S. POSITIONS. I AGREE FULLY WITH AMBASSADOR STERNER THAT THESE THREATS WOULD SOON BE EXPOSED AS NOT CREDIBLE, SINCE U.S. HAS MORE TO LOSE THAN
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GAIN BY CURTAILING RELATIONSHIPS WITH QATAR AND OTHER SMALL STATES IN THIS AREA.
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Message Attributes

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